

Spring 2018

Rehabilitated ruins

Abigail Cathryn Gwin
James Madison University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/honors201019>

 Part of the [Civil Rights and Discrimination Commons](#), [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminal Procedure Commons](#), [Interior Architecture Commons](#), and the [Urban, Community and Regional Planning Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Gwin, Abigail Cathryn, "Rehabilitated ruins" (2018). *Senior Honors Projects, 2010-current*. 578.
<https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/honors201019/578>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors College at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senior Honors Projects, 2010-current by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.



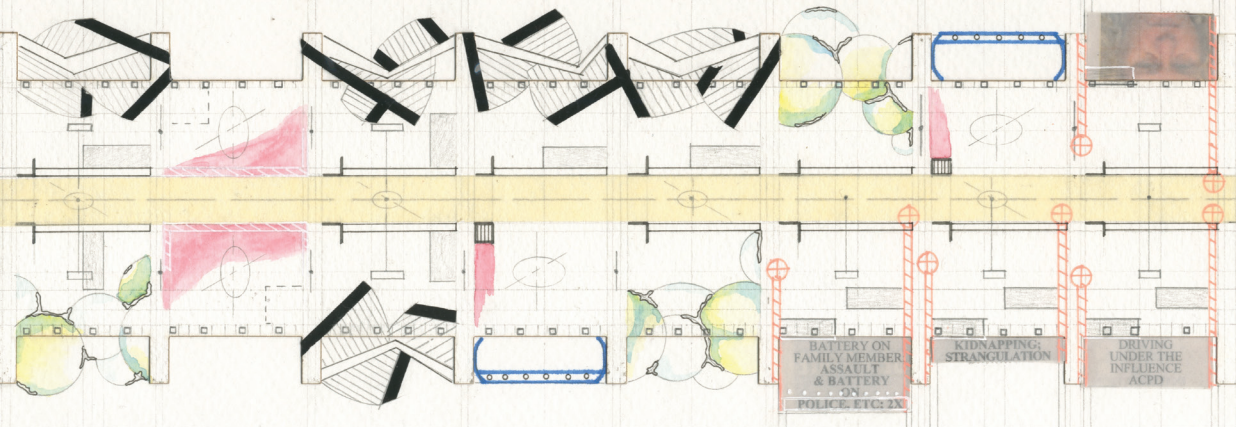
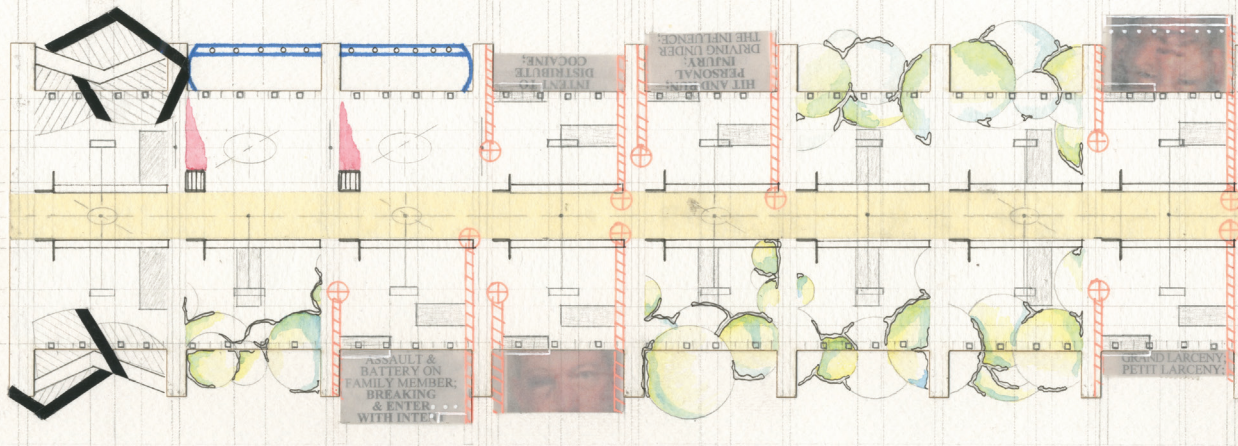
REHABILITATED RUINS

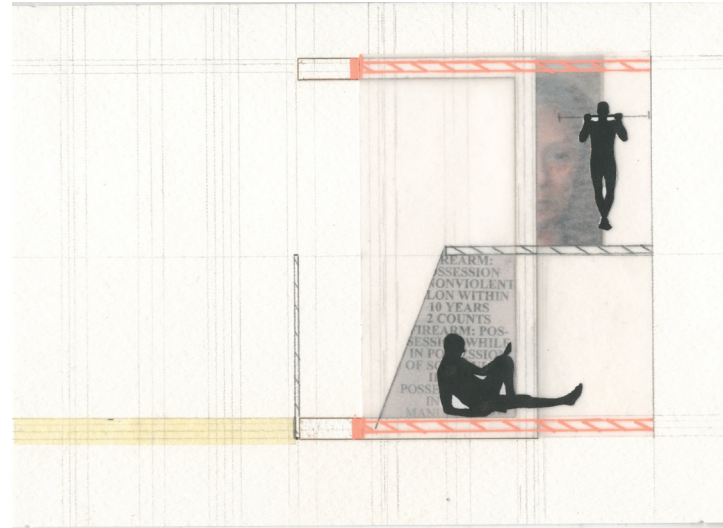
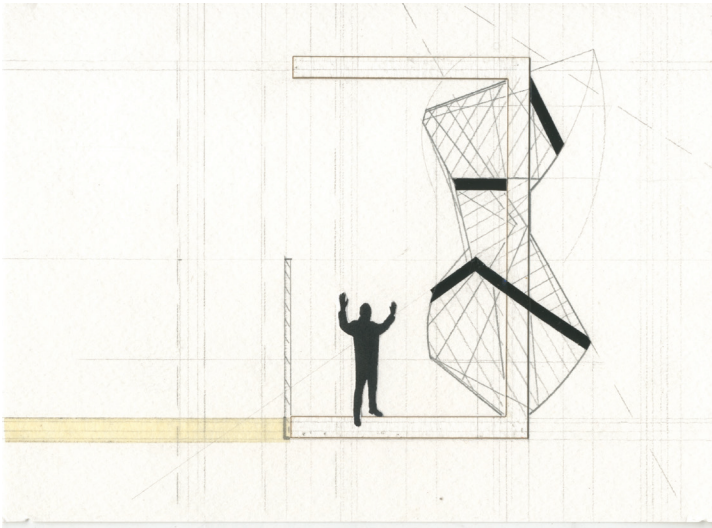
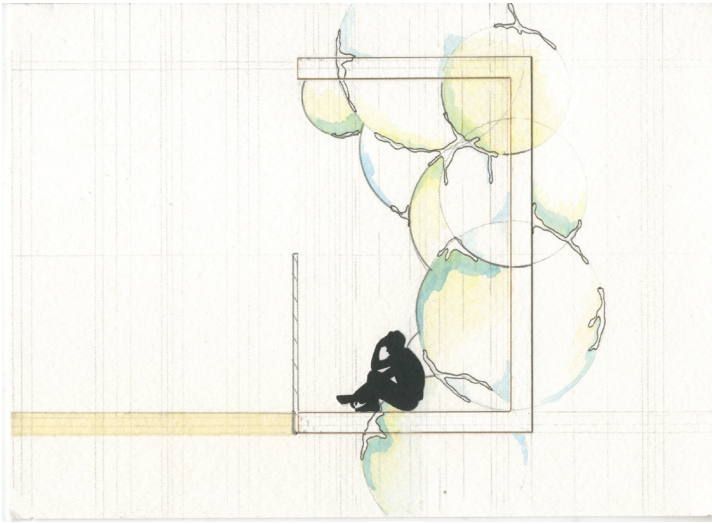
Love is the motive, but justice is the instrument.

- Reinhold Niebuhr

Presumptions of guilt, poverty, racial bias...created a system defined by error.

...we discussed the concept of these “pods” acting not only as jail cells while imprisoned, but as a potential temporary housing unit once time has been served. Dissecting the concept even further, the “pods” would be built by inmates in order to provide jobs (an hourly wage/time off sentence) while imprisoned, as well as, lived in by inmates. Not only does this give a sense of pride, but it would prove to be economically savvy in the long-run. “Pods” would be inserted into these “found spaces” and connect to one another to create an overall prison system. Furthermore, with good behavior, inmates have the opportunity to leave with their “pod”/cell to use for temporary housing. Many inmates caught in the “revolving door” of the justice system, suffer from homelessness to where jail they have food and shelter, which is a better alternative to their everyday lifestyle. This “takeaway pod” would be a beautiful opportunity for someone to change their lifestyle and begin to build on now what they already have which is a place to call home. Moreover, once grown out of the “pod”, former inmates would have the option to sell it back to the local prison system (based on its current condition) in order to gain some wealth. This would complete the circle for the concept of, “for inmates, by inmates.”





12-8-17

engagement challenge sensitive
reward people
direction Horrificing Gi
rehab weird Flexible thing
dystopia about separation site
grid able building/re help
away resource social model
choice moving think ideological tryin
Change educational notion
Contrast torture system
design practice stand
stick/agree positive cut More World
collage face Dig Architecture making So
Search environment cellularity
incarceration Fight products sk
society
space prison between Programmati
Find clear intentions/be
Solitary incentive
found/program

ve
categorizing
ke
ve use

gs Usage
customized
everyone
taught media
good

ng material monotonous
offshoot provide

n trap around

ce humans figure
freedom Rehabilitating
move

ugh layers
cale Make School

order different
ill

c other
beliefs before

e using

1/12/18

Let the light BURN

*Meaningfulness tempts the dream,
dream becomes too fluid*

Spirituality -> justice, peace

ACCIDENTAL MOMENTS

*start NOW: questions, lessons, hopes, fears,
breakthroughs, hard-nuts, epiphanies, leaps,
risks, diagrams, precedence, sites, readings,
tangents, drawings, vignettes, symbols, pro-
jections, activation*

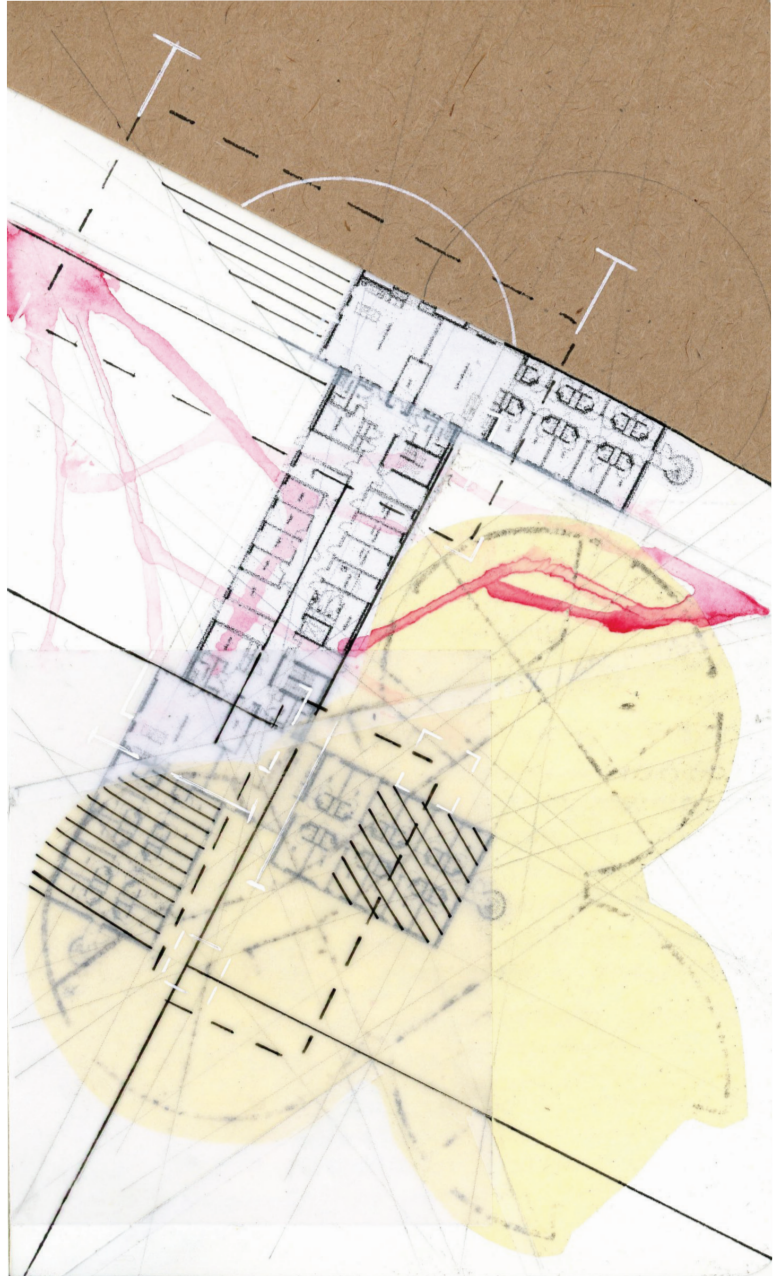
expanding reality by triggering memory

LEAN INTO THE RISK...

?’s: Site. Where would most benefit?

HN: What is humane? What do I agree with?

RISK: Halden Prison -> less punishment? More freedoms?





PHILIP ZIMBARDO

-Psychology of evil

Line is impermeable

Evil: the exercise of power to intentionally harm (psychologically), hurt (physically), and/or destroy (morally) & commit crimes to humanity

Transformations of human character:

- dispositional-inside the individual (the bad apples)
- situational-external (the bad barrel)
- systematic-broad influences (political, economic, legal power)(bad barrel makers)

7 Social Processes that lead to evil:

- mindlessly taking first step
- dehumanization of others
- de-individualized from self (anonymity)
- diffusion of personal responsibility
- blind obedience to authority
- uncritical conformity to group norms
- passive tolerance of evil through inaction or indifference

S

I

F

M



DETROIT: PACKARD PLANT

Hamtramck, MI: most diverse, amexed
self from Detroit, arts community

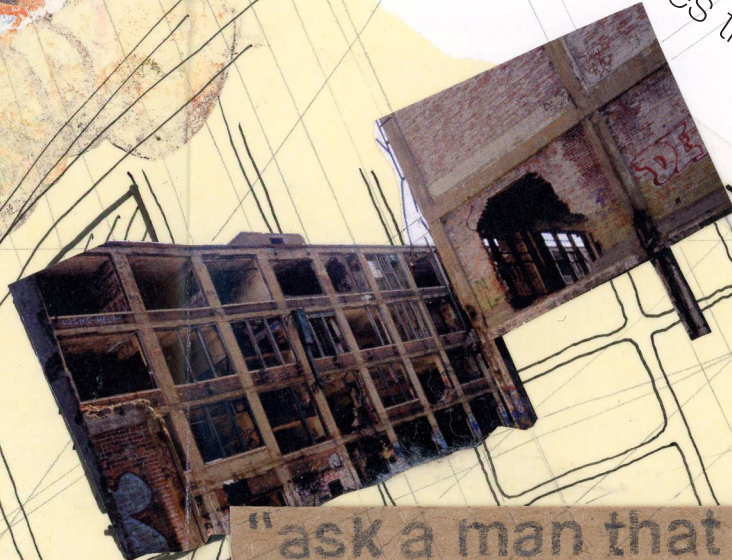
Neighborhoods surround plant, single
family and complex (built for workers), full
empty blocks

NOT PRECIOUS

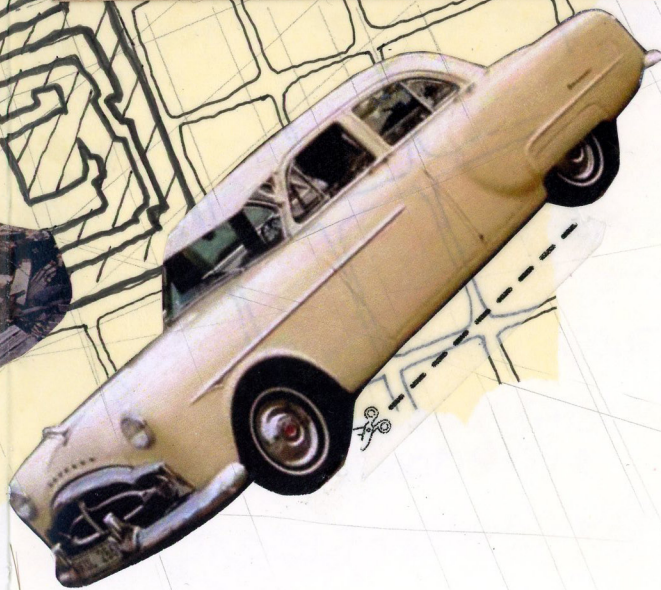
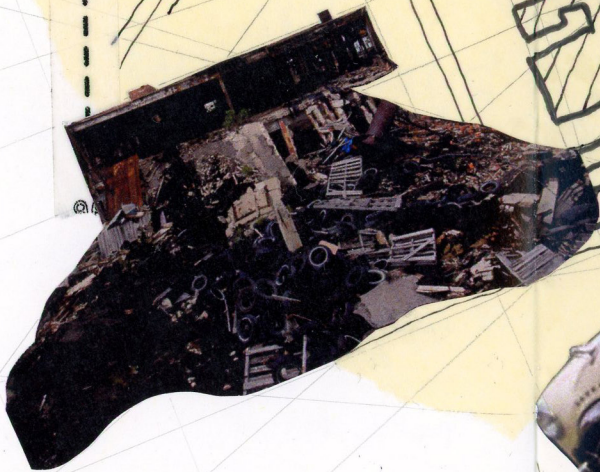
How does the site generate
healing? How does the program
heal the site?



キリ



"ask a man that owns one"



1/19/18

HUMANE: closed off of normal life, look at losses,
bridge common feeling, empower, meeting w/ family

Banking system, education, meditation, exercise

Turmoil between ethnic groups, urban, communal, familial,
spiritual, inter-generational

Enhanced meaning -> reverse poles, study abroad? Ser-
vice work?

PACKARD: module, rhythm, blown-up, photo-
graphs (tell the story)
-insertions
-relate to music

Qualities of noise/silence

Smaller sentences -> middle ground

Employment, citizenship, release/freedom, mentoring, liva-
bility, generosity, hospitality

FIF
FL
YC
PL
HI
FR
TIC
RE
IN

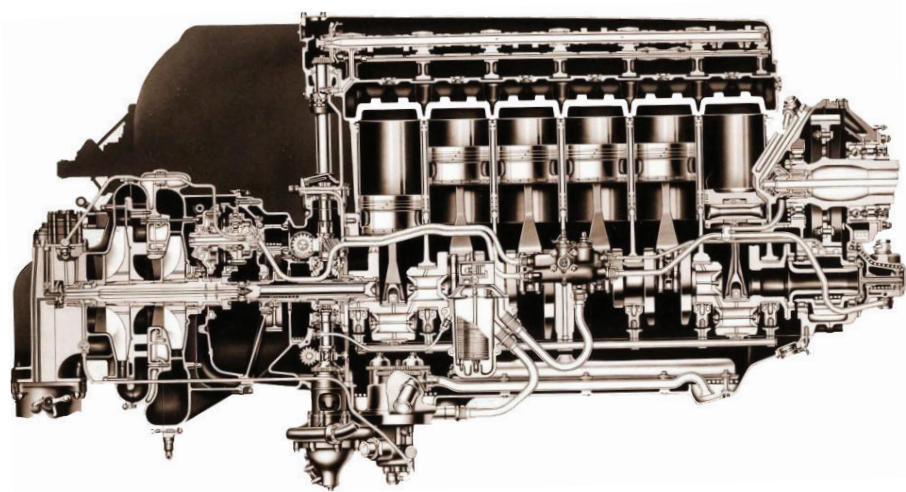
?’s: What would my vision for healing be? What are staples of the American prison system?

HN: Using the landscape reflect a passage of time

RISK: More freedoms leading to a place of leisure

DISCIPLINE IN YOUR RE-
OM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE IN
FIRE FROM THE HIP. DISCI-
LECTION. FIRE FROM THE
OUR REFLECTION. FIRE
IPLINE IN YOUR REFLEC-
IE HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR
FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE
ON. FIRE FROM THE HIP. DIS-
CIPLINE IN YOUR REFLECTION. FIRE FROM THE
HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR REFLECTION. FIRE
FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR REFLEC-
TION. FIRE FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR
REFLECTION. FIRE FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE
IN YOUR REFLECTION. FIRE FROM THE HIP. DIS-
CIPLINE IN YOUR REFLECTION. FIRE FROM THE
HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR REFLECTION. FIRE
FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR REFLEC-
TION. FIRE FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE IN YOUR
REFLECTION. FIRE FROM THE HIP. DISCIPLINE

THE ENGINE



THE ENGINE acts as a heart. Each rev is a beat. A culmination of parts, circuits, and connections each of which can be symbolic to a bigger cause. Soon to be made and understood in mass production. Morphed into pods, latched on to site, and given a soul. THE ENGINE sits as the lifeline to the structure.

PROGRAM

Who says corrections happen behind bars? What if services were provided to truly rehabilitate the “inmates” that inhabit the Packard Plant site in an open, schematic setting. These programs include:

COUNSEL

VISIT

LOUNGE

INHABIT

BASK

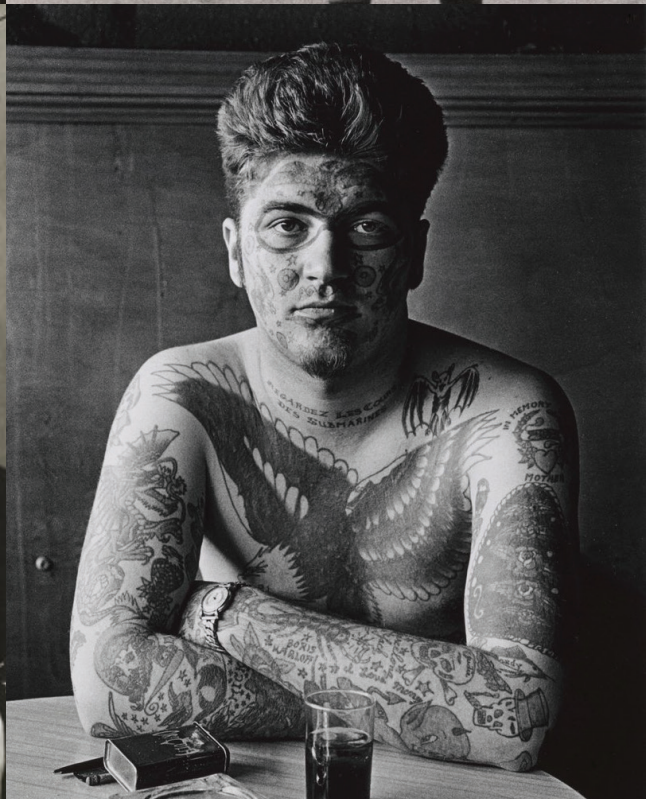
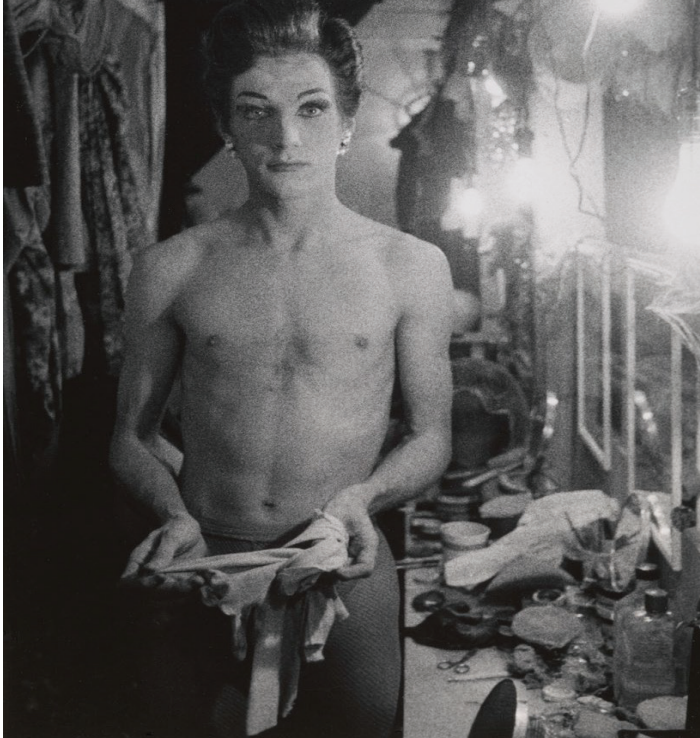
EXCHANGE

LEARN

REFLECT

ACT

RELEASE



A Connotation Of Infinity

E.E. Cummings

*a connotation of infinity
sharpens the temporal splendor of this night*

*when souls which have forgot frivolity
in lowliness, noting the fatal flight
of worlds whereto this earth's a hurled dream*

down eager avenues of lifelessness

*consider for how much themselves shall gleam,
in the poised radiance of perpetualness.
When what's in velvet beyond doomed thought*

*is like a woman amorous to be known;
and man, whose here is alway worse than naught,
feels the tremendous yonder for his own—*

on such a night the sea through her blind miles

of crumbling silence seriously smiles

JUSTIN

2/5/18

What do you want to explore in this thesis?

- 3 Points, one line each.
- 01 The notion of true rehabilitation.
- 02 Stopping crime at its source by providing necessary resources.
- 03 Forcing the humane.

What is True Rehabilitation?

Is it possible to stop crime at its source? What are the resources?

How do you force something? Instead of forcing can you provoke or encourage?

How does the United States begin to change its culture. This project could have underlying notions of a positive visionary future as opposed to the current pop culture focus on dystopia.

What will you get out of this thesis?

- 3 Points, one line each.
- 01 A redefined concept for "prison"
- 02 A realistic plan for taking action.
- 03 A better understanding, respect, and hope, for those incarcerated.

What deeply interests you about this thesis?

What mediums are you excited to explore with?

A bit on Justin's thesis and how it extends beyond college.

Thesis is a way of developing a way of working, a mindset.

Thinking about thesis. Long-term.

Thesis isn't just about one project. It is about larger ideas and exploring topics of interest. It is also an opportunity to further develop skill sets and experiences.

Thoughts on craft, development, and refinement.

What resources/references are you looking at?

.Architects, designers, artists, what is help driving or inspire some of your work?

Bryan Cantley, Neil Denari, Lebbeus Woods, David Salle, Andrew Zago, Mina Gospavic, and Mimi Tong

Building Machines - Pamphlet Architecture

Smout Allen - Augmented Landscapes - Pamphlet Architecture

Tadao Ando

Flexible and soft Architectures.

How are these guys influencing your work?

Your drawing and modeling abilities?

A chance to refine and develop. Putting information down, daily.

How do you define plug-in type apparatus?

.Be specific. What does this term mean? Define it for yourself. Critics will ask.

An "inmate" built structural form inserted into previously-occupied spaces.

Are the only programs living, working, and retail? Are there more?

I've been working with a running list that right now consists of: counsel, visit, lounge, inhabit, bask, exchange, learn, reflect, act, and release

What are some of the documentaries that you were/are watching?

13th, "Where to Invade Next", Lockdown, Lock-up, Women Behind Bars, We're Not Monsters, Drugs Inc., Underworld Inc.

Current Programs within the prison are: Solitary Confinement, Mental Ward, Long Term Prisoners. Are there more?

They vary from prison to prison but most include the above as well as: commissary, rec yard, protected custody, library, some GED, some nursery, visitation centers, medical, janitorial, etc.

Why would prisoners want to build their own cells?

Having the "prisoners" assemble the pods introduces a new skill set and would instill a sense of pride and achievement within them.

What are current prison programs that are similar to this?

For years the federal government has turned to federally funded prisons to build and ship issued furniture, hardware, garments, etc. In some of my documentaries they highlight how inmates treat their job as a privilege and something not to be messed with since it provides a sense of mental escape and worth.

How is the prison system currently viewed - Rehabbing prisoners for society v. punishing them for their illegal activities?

Between Europe and the US views differ drastically. One of my case studies was Halden Prison in Sweden which acts more or less as a group home. However, Russia is 10x more secured than American prisons. One of the biggest conflict points is the war on drugs... treated as a crime rather than a health issue. It also plays into politics because without the Mexican cartel a large portion of people would be without a job.

How might your programing prevent prisoners from getting into trouble while within prison, i.e preventing longer sentencing while serving?

The hope is that with more freedoms one is less likely to screw up-the reverse of the current system. How I see it is that with a lack of freedoms, one cares less if they're taken away since a greater majority of their fellow inmates are also without them. Vice-versa, if a greater-majority were experiencing a vast amount of freedoms and one were to screw up, that one inmate has little to no one to sympathize with when freedoms are revoked.

What are you doing as the designer/architect to facilitate this program or system?

I've began to section out my site an "inmate" would travel through as they continued their sentence. These separate areas allow greater freedoms and opportunities one has access to as they continue to grow and persevere as an individual (aka the gradual rehabilitation).

What kind of training or instruction are the prisoners receiving?

I've almost began viewing the program similar to a college campus. Areas for leisure, studying, class, etc. What if "inmates" were required to enroll in courses, log in service hours, had career fairs?

How is all of this funded? Funding is something to think about, not necessarily to solve. As a position in your thesis you would decide that there would be funding or you could choose to attempt to speculate.

What is humane? How do you define humane?

To me, being humane is having a general respect and awareness for everyone of all races, genders, economical standpoint, mental state, etc. Everyone should be treated fairly and have the proper resources accessible to assess their needs.

How are you using the found objects?

I find that I struggle with form so it's helpful to start with an object and morph it into an ulterior structure.

How are the found objects influencing or feeding into the design of the Models?

They push me to think bigger. I realize that sounds cheesy, but numerous times last semester I found myself stuck in how to interpret an idea and just by roaming the aisles of a thrift shop a material or a piece will stick out to me and answer the question. I also love the concept of dissecting and making anew.

Responding to found objects is an exciting idea. The aesthetics of the object could help shape design decisions and aesthetics within your architectural proposals and drawings. Texture, material, lighting, boundary, etc. Nothing is off limits. Allow it all to tie in and together.

What do your site mappings consist of? What information are they mapping? What kind of notations are you using? What are you getting out of them? How will they be useful to your design work? What is driving your site mappings?

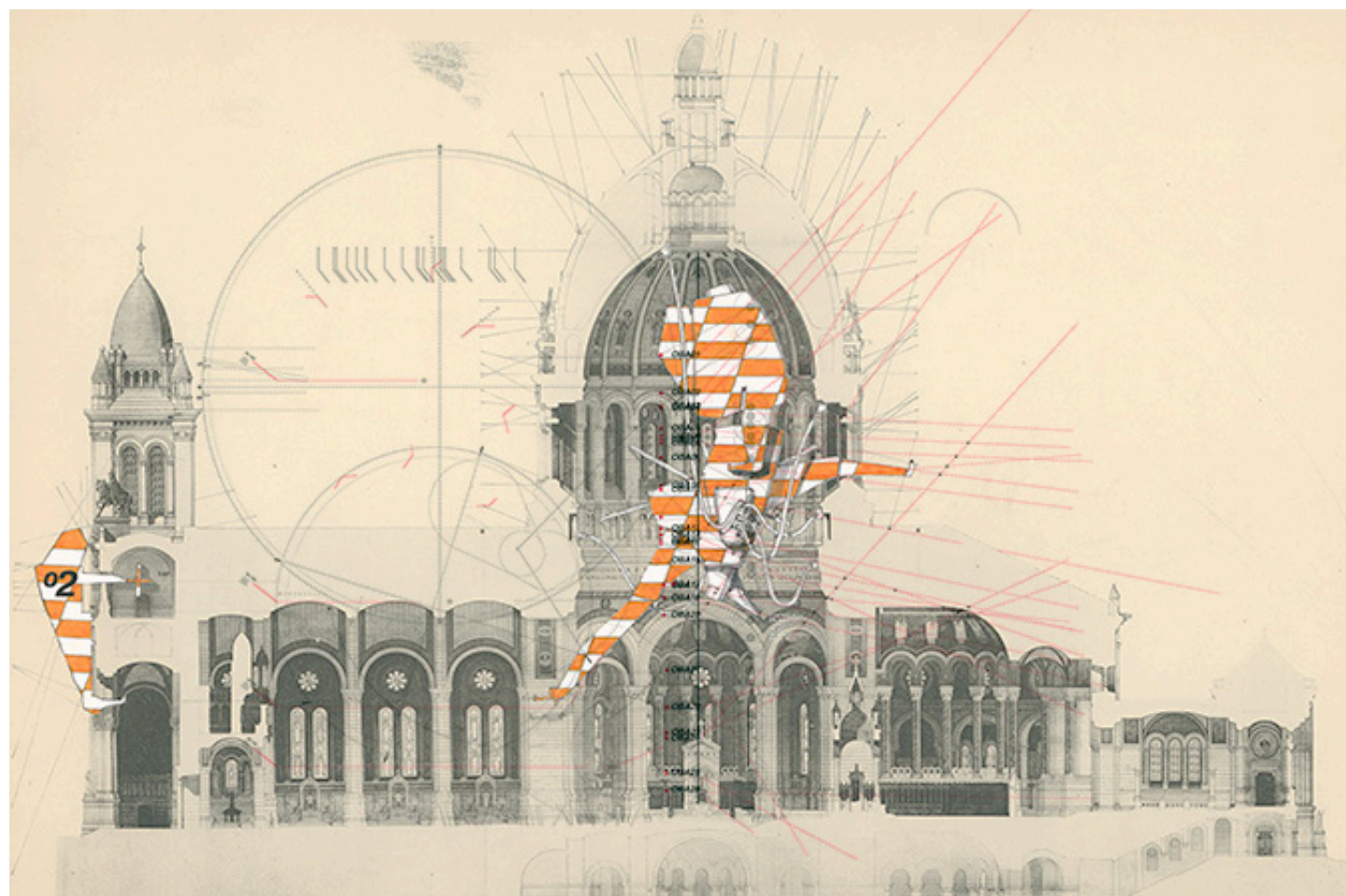
For this last critique I had a site map that reflected information regarding redlining within the neighborhood, proximity to the closest jail, ethnic make-up, distance from downtown Detroit, neighborhood break-up, and I started diagramming a preliminary displacement of people throughout the site. I also did a series of Packard Engine parts. It was important for me to understand the history behind the plant, the machines created within, and most importantly the social make-up of the area which influences crime rates. So the campus would happen within the existing structure of the plant? Would there be new building on the campus?

What are the poetic descriptions?

Along with doing a series of car part sections as well as three models, I also included information on the Stanford Prison Experiment, the War on Drugs, spiritual paths overlaid with the path of an inmate pacing in a cell, as well as honed in on a series of activists.

The car drawings. Begin to scan in and photocopy and print car parts out scale them up and down, draw over them. Hybridize.

Can you talk about the latest drawing you just sent this past week? Go lighter on the construction lines.



Average term sentence?

Do re-offenders go through a different booking process than first time offenders?

What have you learned about yourself (as a CO) being in this position?

What programs are made available to inmates? Can they be taken away as a punishment?

What is the most common offense?

What is the most prominent race and gender?

What percentage of inmates are re-offenders?

Is counseling readily available?

How are mental health inmates accommodated for?

How do you work with rival gang members?

Who stays in protected custody?

Max length of time sanctioned for solitary confinement?

What percent of those booked are able to bail out?

What punishments do you use? Are they successful?

What are the most common inmate requests?

Is there any characteristic you would personally change about the system?

3yrs

GED, Drug and Alcohol, Workshops (finance, re-entry, etc.), Bible Study, Library, Laundry, Class space

270 Males and 50 Females, probation offense- drug related

Majority are re-offenders

Daily Meetings

Padded cell for suicide, CSP-proper meds, 15min watch

Separate Pods

Only Keep-away areas

Can request 7 days, max 2 weeks, 2 day cool down

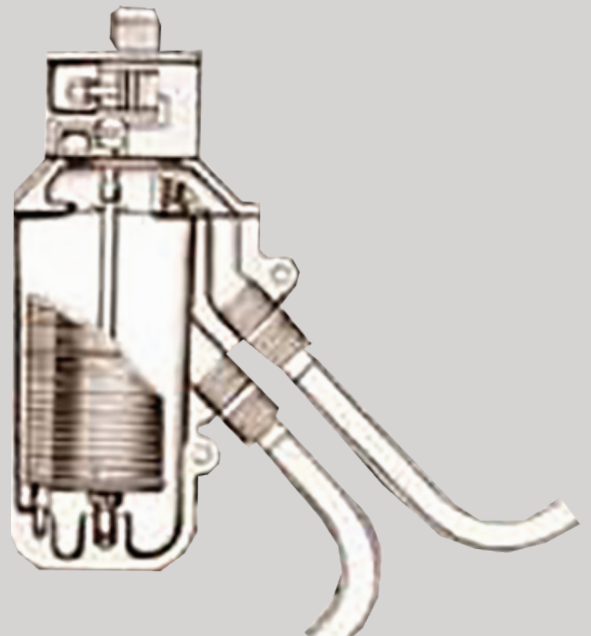
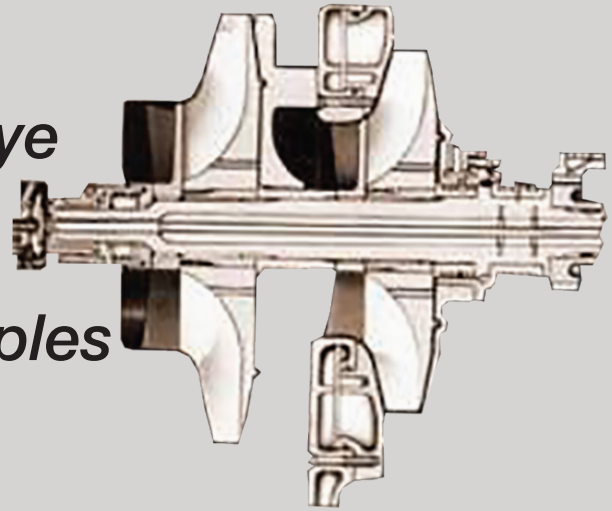
Restraint chair

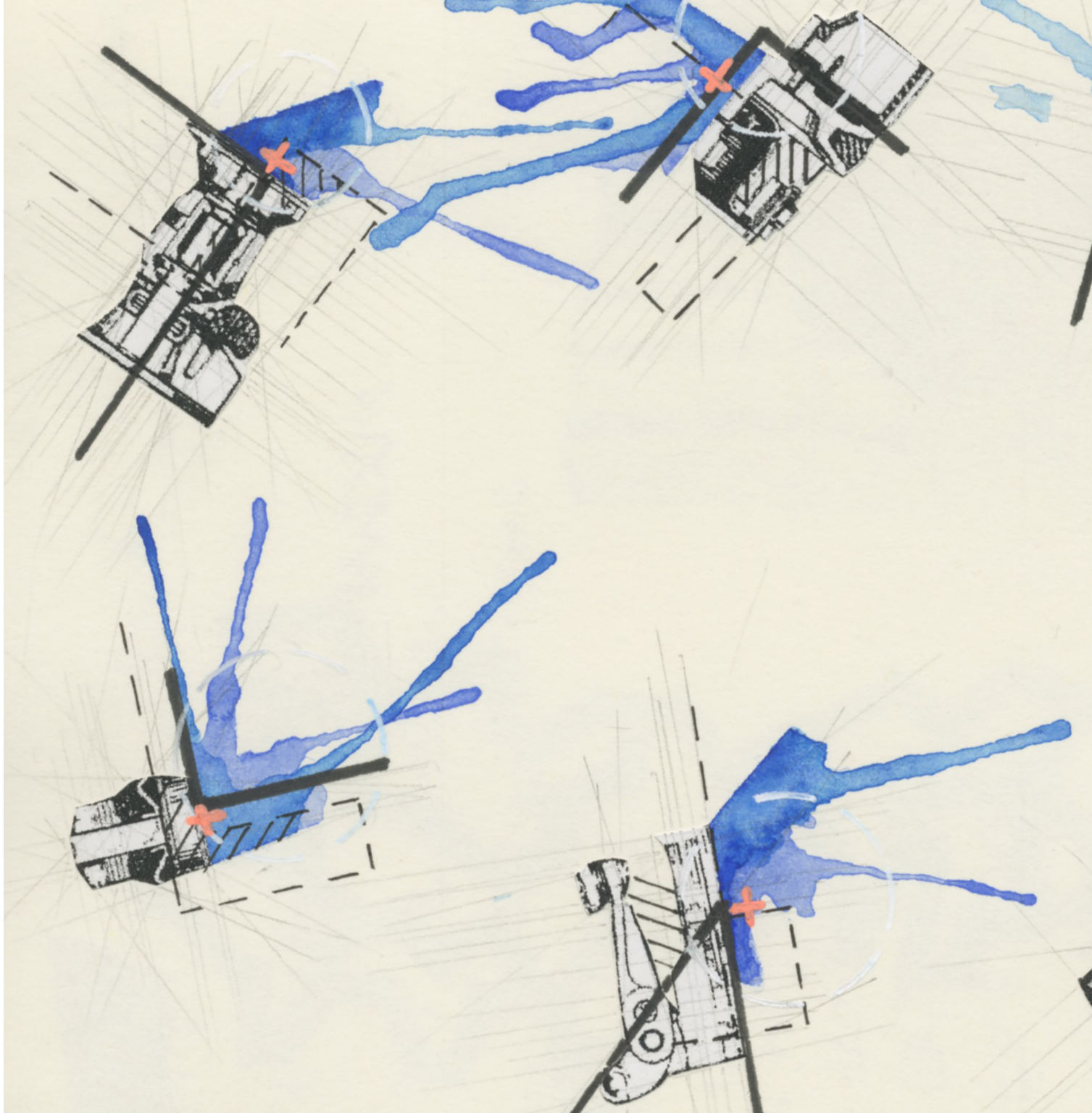
precise limitations with extensive possibilities

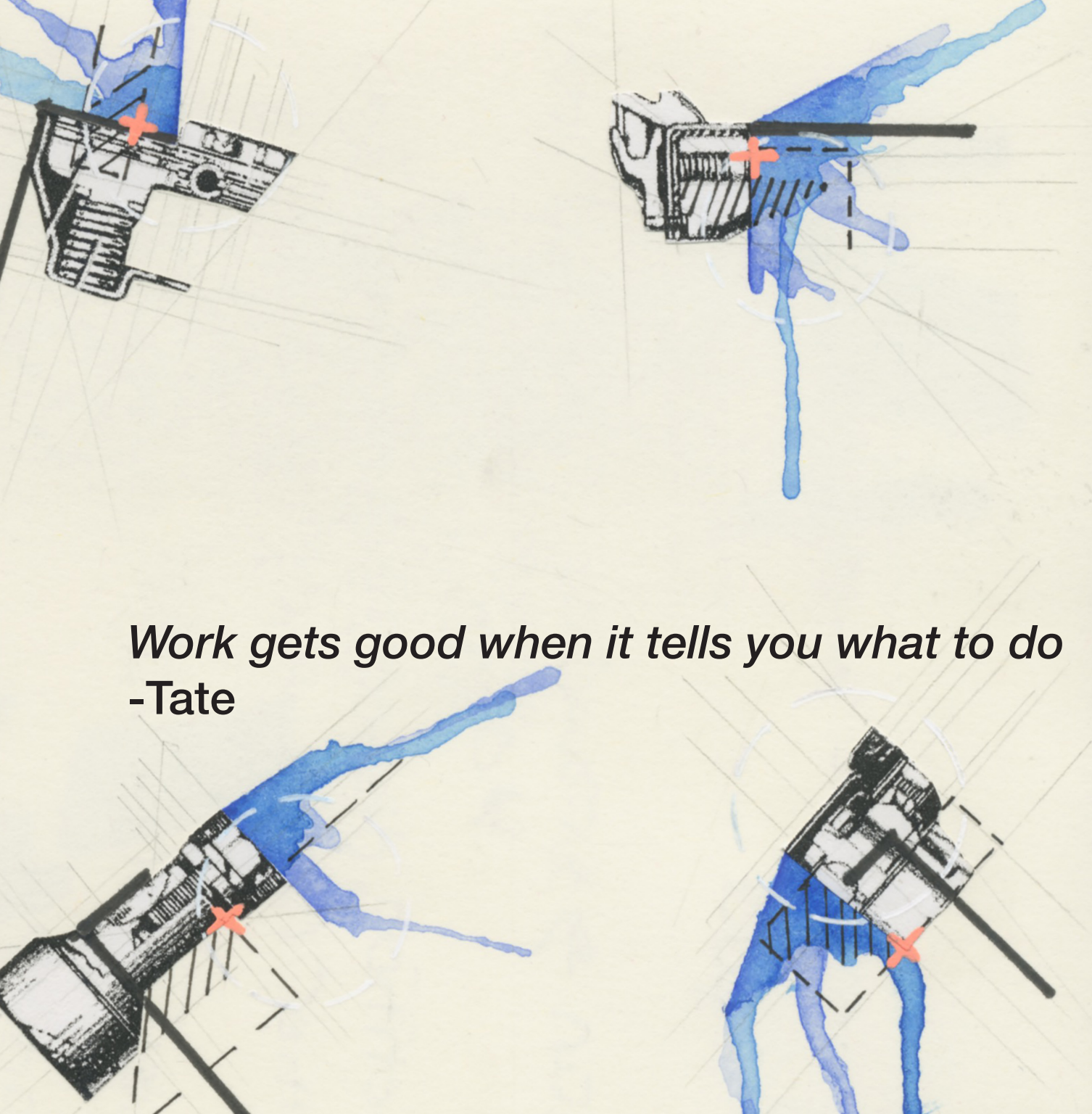
velvet hand and a hawk's eye

hates rules but loves principles

-Cartier Bresson







Work gets good when it tells you what to do
-Tate

?’s: How do pods interact with each other? How does the engine part influence the structure? Could the site act as a launch-pad?

HN: Defining the term: guard. Fear? Fragile? What is their purpose?

RISK: The presence of guards pushes the institutional. Commitment. Too soon?

- Cast a material (solid)
- Get Parts
- Specific typology
- Work off the site
- Mass production
- 2 main models with additions?
- **CUT DOWN SITE**
- Ditch parameters
- Frame and expand
- Dial in program
- Plan, elevation
- Function
- Grounded in site
- What happens wall to wall?



How can we help you? More people have asked me what they can do to help me in the last 14 hours of my life than ever asked me in the years when I was coming up. Where were these people when he really needed them?

The prison officials had pumped themselves up to carry out the execution with determination and resolve, but even they revealed extreme discomfort and some measure of shame. We were comfortable killing people who kill, in part because we think we can do it in a manner that doesn't implicate our own humanity, the way that raping or abusing someone would.

Sentenced to life with no parole...he was 13, the judge condemned Ian for living in the streets, for not having good parental supervision, and for his multiple prior arrests for shoplifting and minor property crimes. Juveniles housed in adult prisons are 5x more likely to be victims of sexual assault.

J 3/6/18:

Detail vs. vague

Overlay text (program)

Interior shapes exterior

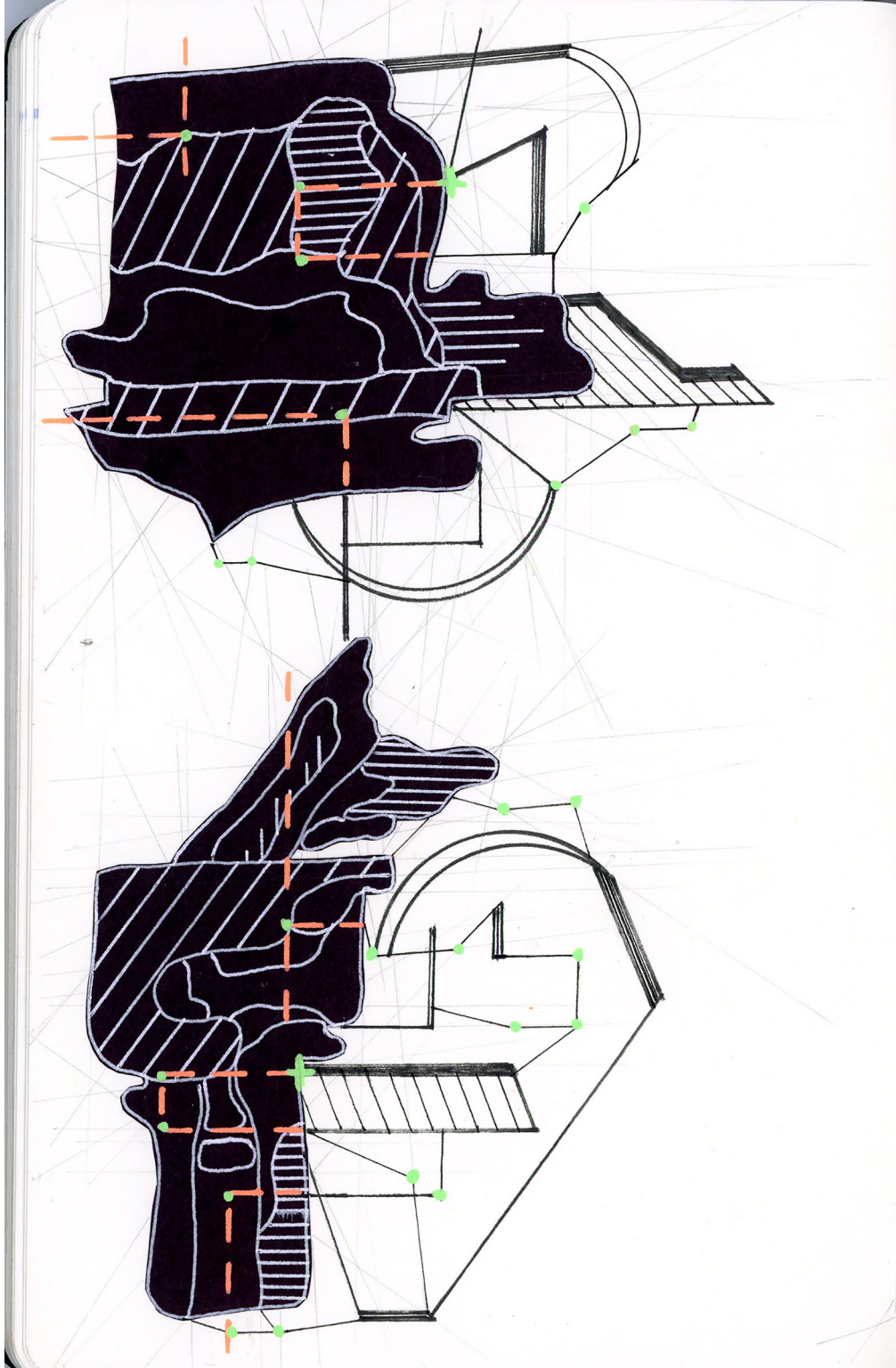
Model the in between

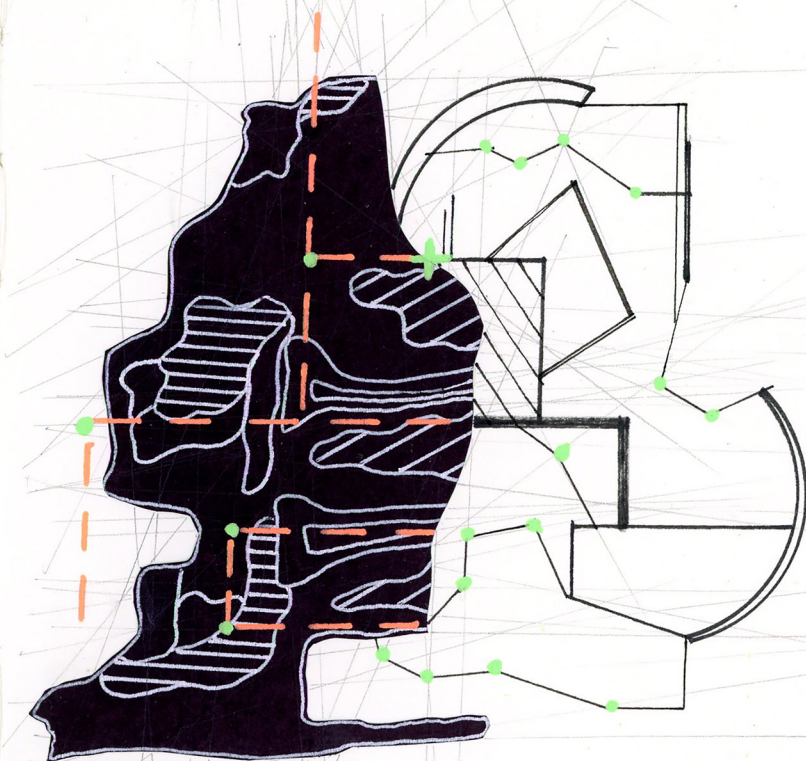
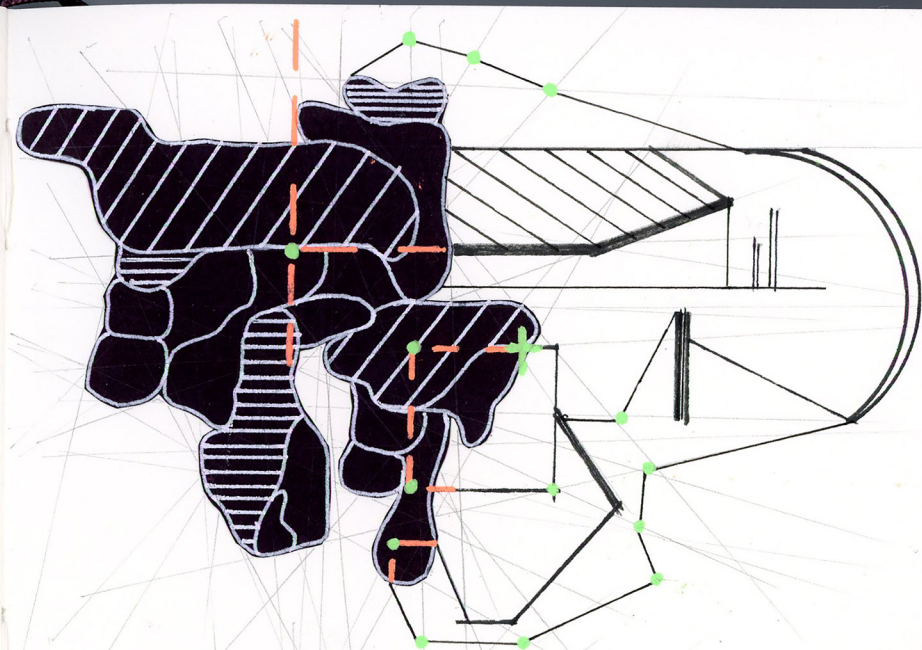
Building machines (typology)

Knowing vs. unknown (responsive)

Micro-feedback

*If you don't
make stuff,
you don't give
yourself the
opportunity to
ask questions.*
-Tate





MIDWAY

Include site in sections

Draw entirety

Language a bit confusing in drawings

Program within car part

How is the inside different from past the Plant's edge

Formal exploration is strong

Re-introduce prison program: bring back ethical surges, specify programs, make sure you say what you want to say, bring it back

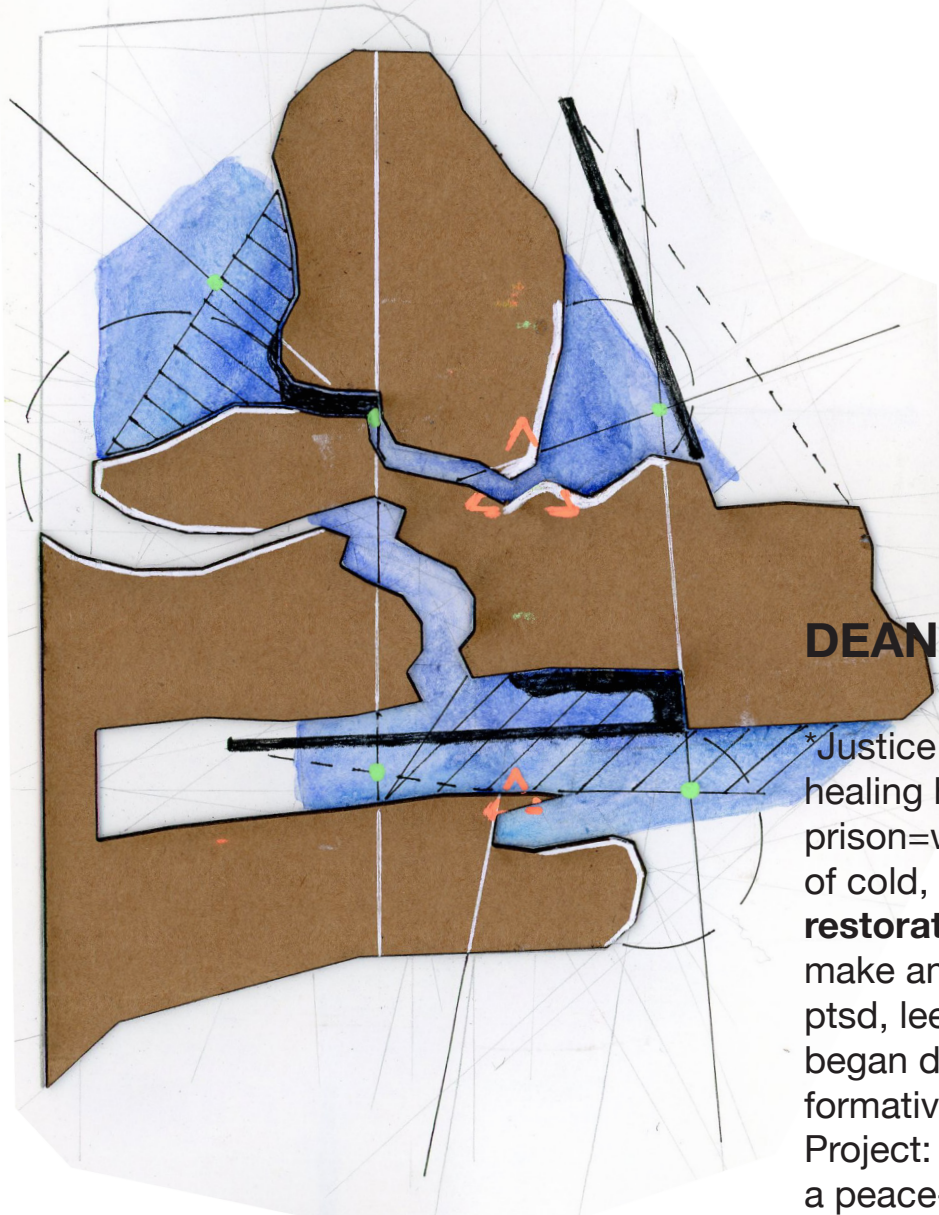
What does it mean to be in prison?

Is cell structure holding you back?

Urban scale, pipeline?

Tackle big questions

Structure past found object (person not part scale)



DEANNA VAN BUREN

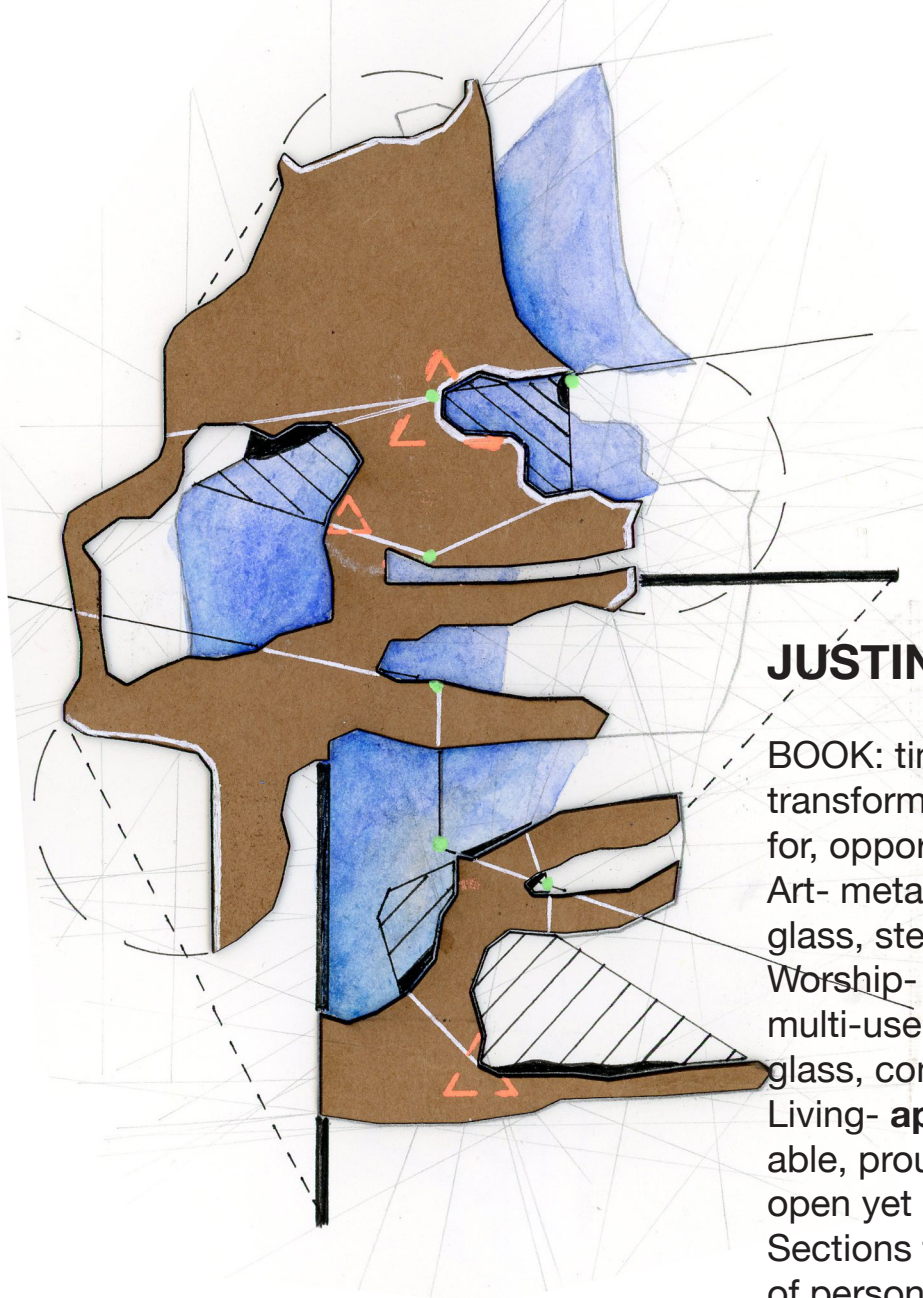
*Justice architect

healing hut allows for light in refuge
prison=worst building type consisting
of cold, hard spaces

restorative justice: obligation to
make amends, builds empathy, eases
ptsd, lee reoffenders, amplify
began design studios in prison (trans-
formative)

Project: turned an old drug house into
a peace-making center

restore Oakland: restaurant, activist
organization, restorative justice
Villages on wheels-> brings resources
to communities



JUSTIN 3/24/18

BOOK: time to write, revise, edit,
transform, use it for what you need it
for, opportunity for publication design
Art- metal, wood, lecture, workshop,
glass, steel

Worship- private and public areas,
multi-use worship spaces, steel,
glass, concrete, pointed light sources
Living- **apartment like**, hold account-
able, proud of individualized space,
open yet private, vibrant

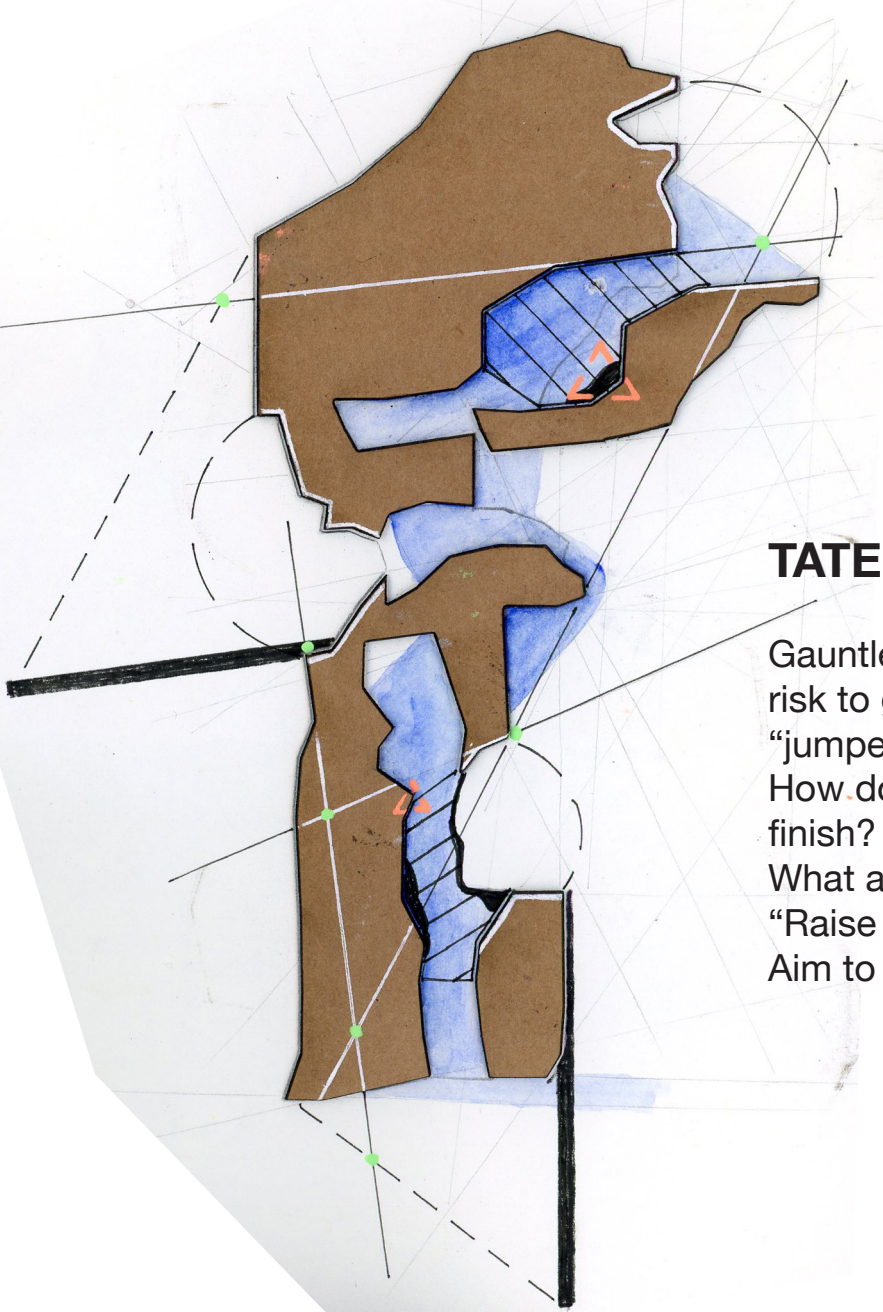
Sections that express **material** (scale
of person 3")

What if section and plan were on
same page?

LTL Architects-> tub



**DON'T WORRY ABOUT
FINISHING, THERE'S
TOO MUCH FUN TO BE
HAD.**



TATE 3/26/18

Gauntlet-> threshold, initiation, pain/
risk to get to another side, Being
“jumped” in.

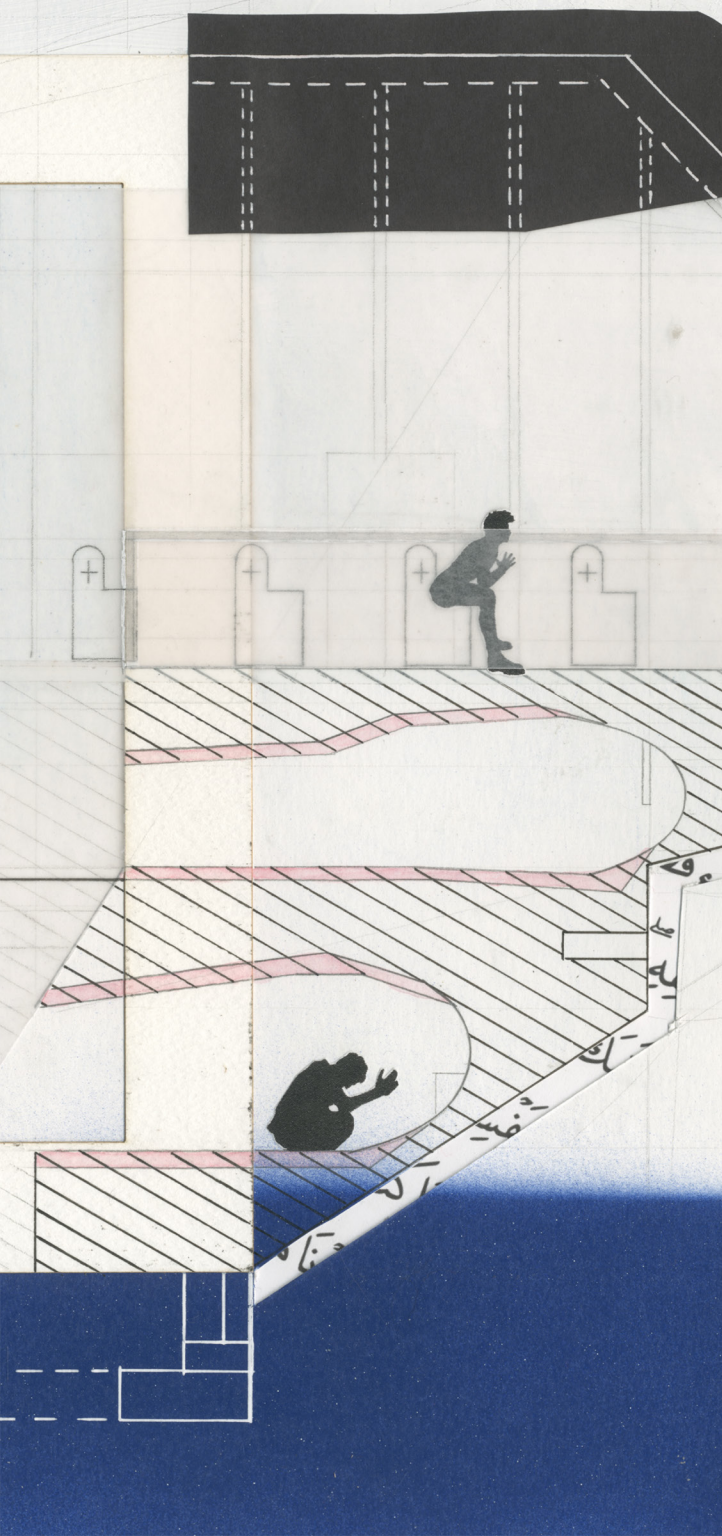
How do I start to make vs. how do I
finish?

What are you before you?

“Raise the dare of your expectations”

Aim to celebrate.

**AM I
SETTLING?**



4/3/18

Rework site axon

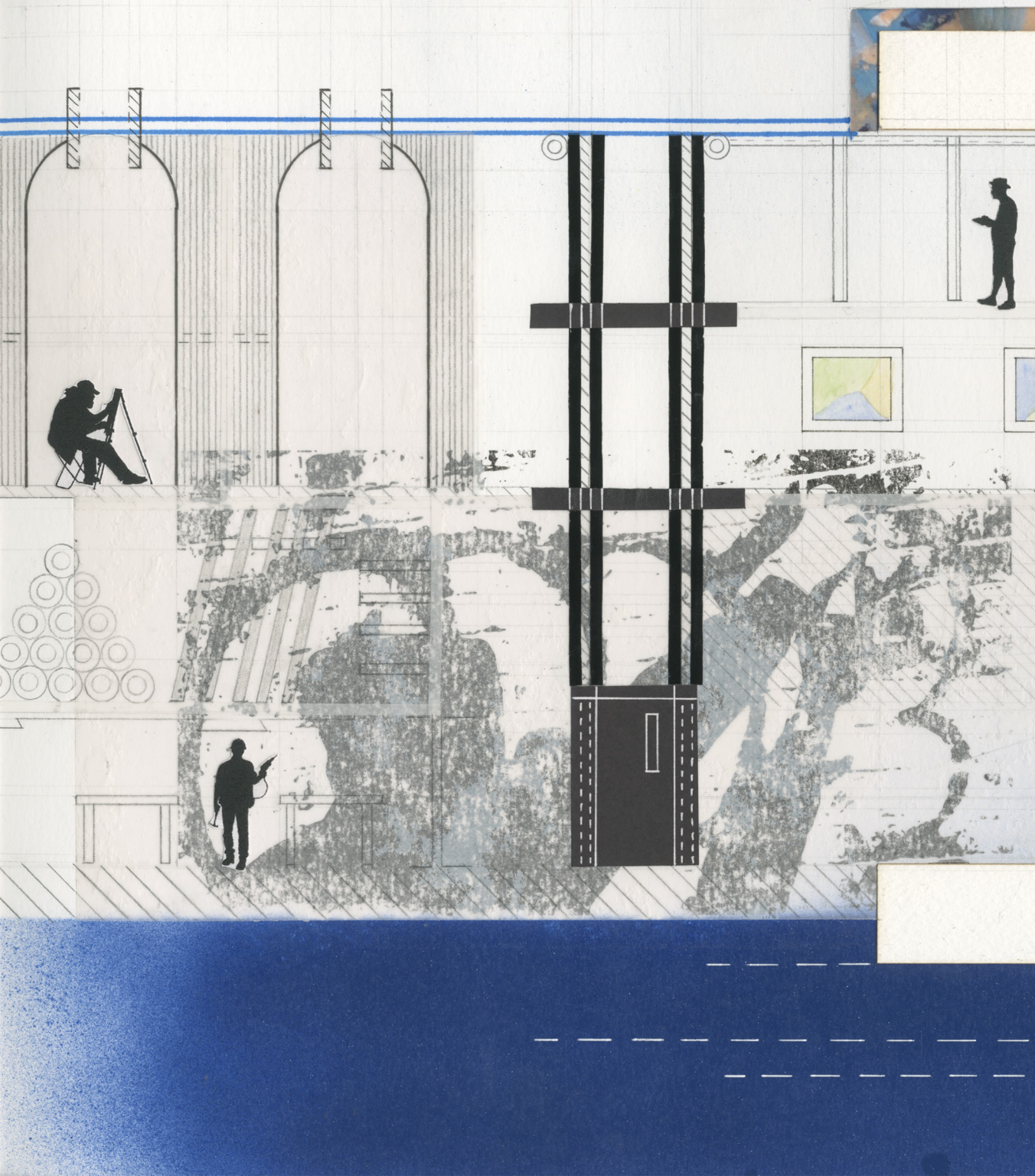
Pay tribute to the site -> how does it work? What programs now represent those programs of the past?

if it is prison, IT IS A PRISON

...the program is the guts. Hone in the activist voice. Need the fire. Force the discomfort. Aim. Expose.

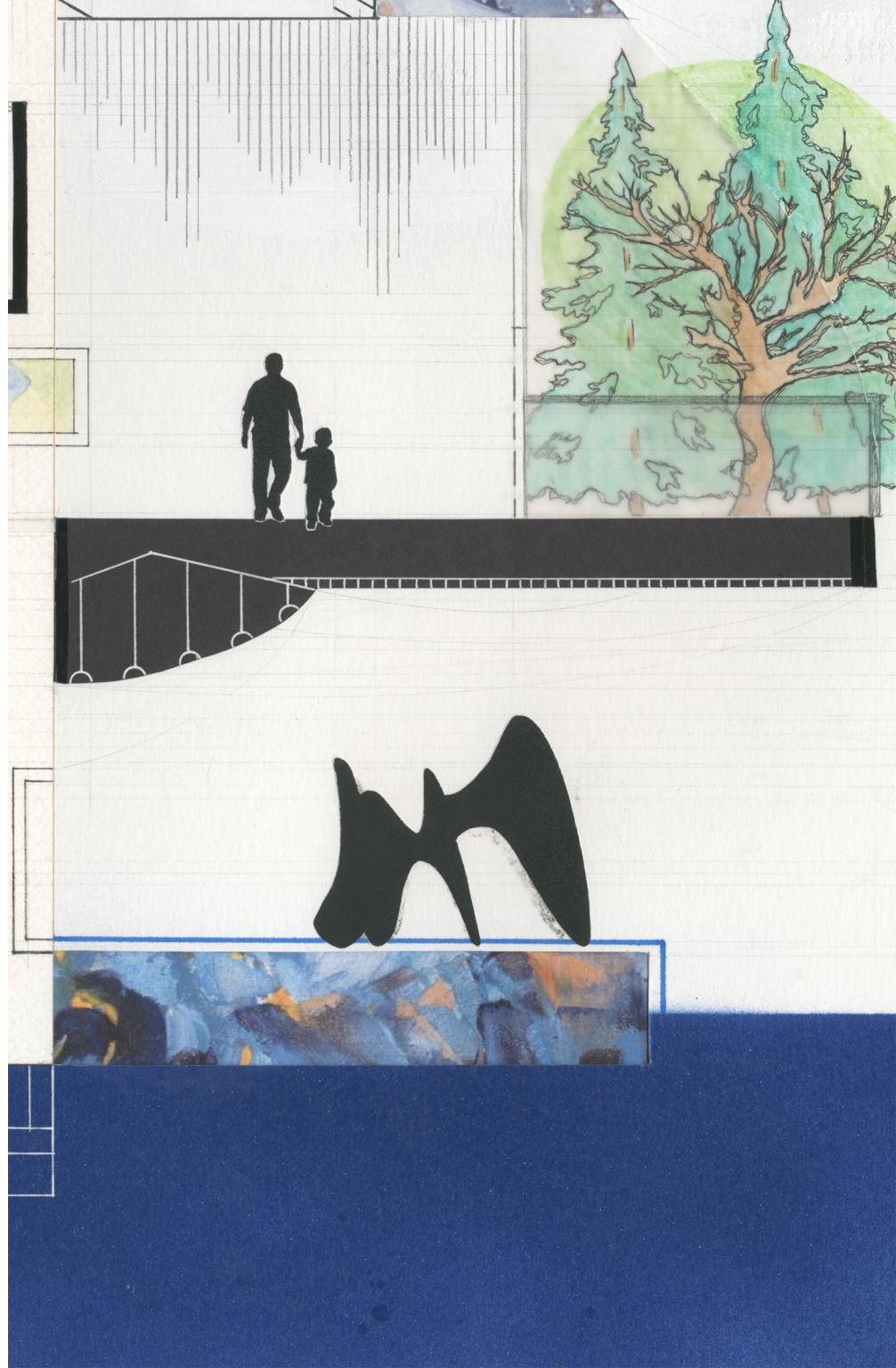
heroin-> prayer position
 robbery-> co-habitation
 gang tagging-> artistic release

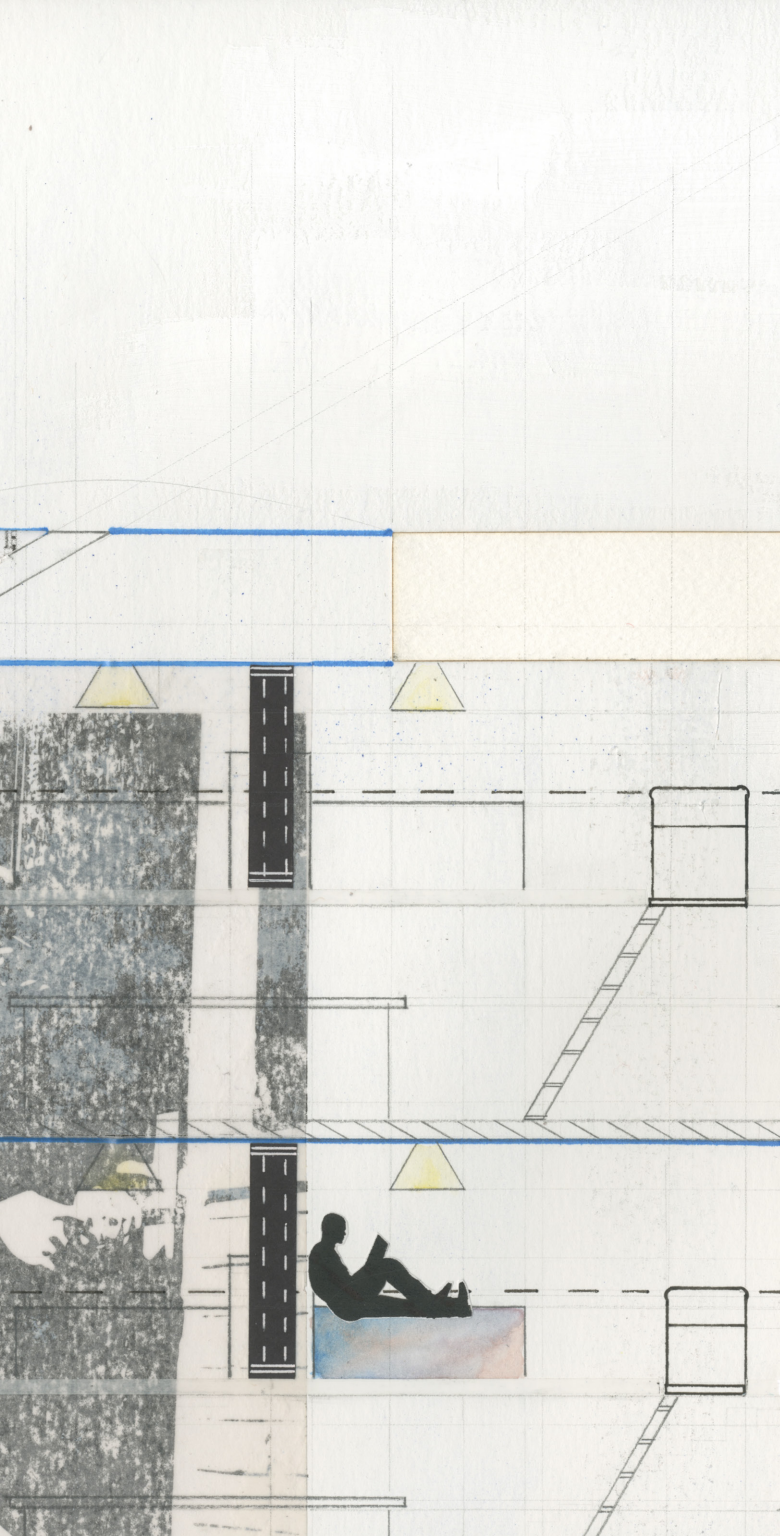




My biggest wins come from being able to tune out studio and just make. Everyone is so caught up in everything that doesn't matter right now, in this moment. Because of this I find the layering and collaging masks the extensive chatter.

With being so close to the end, now is the time to make first marks in pen. It shows I'm not scared as if I'm staring the down the barrel of a gun without blinking.





TATE 4/6/18

Question vault height

Channel Ronchamp, mystery, no airport chapel

No dead end

Focus on thresholds

Allow room for huge congregation

Test ideas with models

Romms for separate religions?

Need a variety of characters (everydayness)

Spatial Studies: models, chapel, cave, other sections and plans

Talk about photos

Reference Islamic Chapel and synagogue

Kahn's "Society of Rooms"

CATHERINE HOKE 4/12/18

“Transform your hustle”

DEFY Ventures

Entrepreneurship, good fathers and mothers

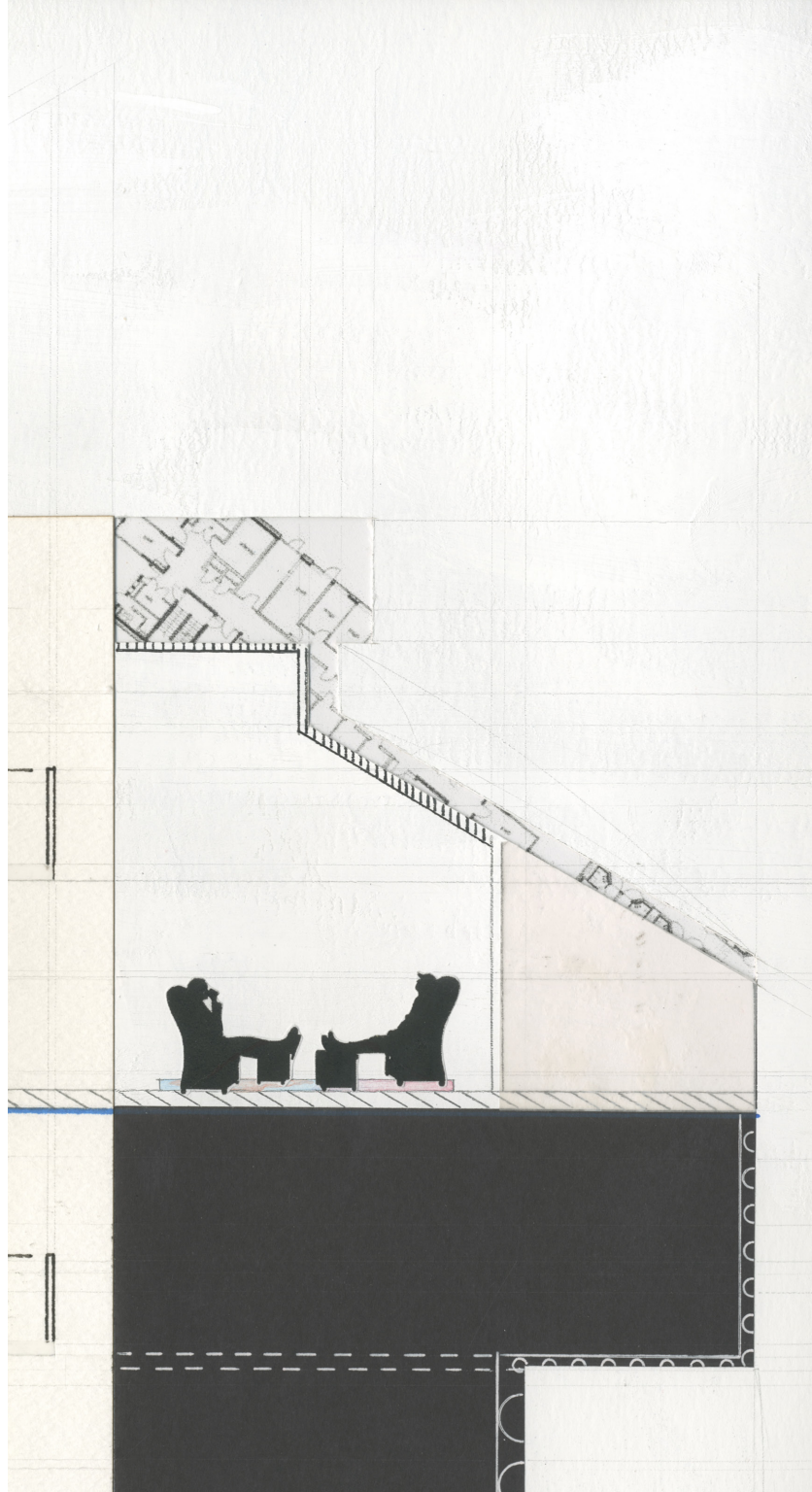
Graduations are key

“CEO of Your New Life”

Get jobs, visit schools

95% employment

3.2% recidivism



**WHAT TO
PRIORITIZE?**

Models, drawings, facade?
breathing, breathing, breathing
It's a lot but is it?
Could I be doing more?
Am I in over my head?
Again, could I be doing more?
Is it enough?
Do I want to end on this note?
Am I ready to be finished?



LUNCH WITH A FORMER CO: GRANDPA KEN

For over 20 years my Grandfather held the position of correctional officer within Fairfax County's Sheriff's office. Not only was he in charge of his team's safety, but more importantly the safety of those incarcerated. I knew I had prison activism in my blood but not this literal. My Grandfather was consistently traveling throughout the US advocating for prison reform and even had a hand in a bill that encouraged home incarceration as an alternative to jail/prison. I couldn't be more proud of the fight enacted by my Grandpa and consider it an honor to be continuing the surge.

4/20/18 “FINAL” THOUGHTS...

A surreal moment.

I am ending just as I began: watching *Lock Up* and aiming my frustration towards work and hope.

Matching my emotion rhythmically comes Ultra Music Festival. Each beat, bump, wub, “hands up!” moment, directly reflects the inner turmoil conflicting with risk, achievement, and wins accompanied with work and thought.

I have dared. I have raised hell. And I am looking forward to fueling the fire.

It's go time whether I am ready or not.

Let's do this thing.

TBC...

Love you Mom and Dad